

Frederick L. Moore House  
1680 31st Street, N.W. (Georgetown)  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-464

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FREDERICK L. MOORE HOUSE

HABS No. DC-464

Location: 1680 31st Street, N.W., Washington (Georgetown)  
District of Columbia

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Chiswell D. Langhorne, Jr.

Present Use: Residence

Date of Easement: September 20, 1976

Statement of  
Significance: The Frederick L. Moore House is an American bracketed villa with a contemporary addition located on an open and wooded site in Georgetown. The house and surrounding green open space contribute to the character of 31st Street. This section of Georgetown was suburban when the Moore House was constructed in 1871. The mansard roof and no longer extant veranda reflected current architectural trends.

### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The Moore House was erected about 1871.
2. Architect: The architect is not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners:

1794 Deed April 25, 1794, recorded May 1, 1794 in  
Liber B folio 18  
Thomas Beall  
to  
Francis Lowndes

- 1805 Deed June 5, 1805, recorded June 8, 1805 in  
Liber M folio 379  
Francis Loundes et ux Jane  
to  
Thomas Peter
- 1823 Deed of Trust February 7, 1823, recorded March 31, 1823 in  
Liber WB folio 10-2  
Thomas Peter  
to  
George Washington Parke Custis
- 1866 Deed August 30, 1866, recorded September 25, 1866 in  
Liber RMH 20 folio 430  
Columbia W. Williams  
to  
Brittania Wellington Kennon and daughter Martha Custis Kennon
- 1866 Deed August 30, 1866, recorded September 25, 1866 in  
Liber RMH 20 folio 432  
Martha Custis Williams  
to  
Brittania Wellington Kennon and her daughter Martha Custis Kennon
- 1866 Deed August 30, 1866, recorded September 25, 1866 in  
Liber RMH 20 folio 433  
Mary Peter  
Gabrietta Peter  
to  
Brittania Wellington Kennon and her daughter Martha Custis Kennon
- 1866 Deed September 19, 1866, recorded September 22, 1866 in  
Liber RMH 20 folio 411  
Brittania W. Kennon  
Martha Custis Kennon  
to  
William Laird, Jr.
- 1871 Deed of Trust April 15, 1871, recorded April 17, 1871 in  
Liber 641 folio 383  
William Laird Jr. et ux Anna Key  
to  
Frederick L. Moore, Tr.  
Hillery L. Offutt, jnt ten

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Little is known about the original structure. No plans are known to exist.

5. Alterations and additions: The Moore House has been altered substantially since its initial construction. The interior was renovated in 1939 by Gertrude Sawyer, Washington architect. Few original partition walls remain. Frank Macioge designed a large two story wing and swimming pool in 1970. Mr. Macioge, an architect practicing in Washington, studied with Robert Venturi and Romaldo Giurgola at the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural merit: The Moore House, an American bracketed villa, is situated on an open, wooded site in Georgetown. The house has been substantially changed by the addition of a new wing in 1970 and the earlier removal of much of the ornament. The important veranda on the south facade was also removed. The dormers and roof appear to be remodelled as well.

2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Wall construction: The walls are brick, painted light grey, laid in common bond.
2. Porches, Stairways, and Terraces: The front door is reached by a dog leg flight of stairs with slate risers and treads, and black wrought iron balusters, hand rail, and newel posts. Open terraces with slate floors are placed along the new wing of the house at the southwest corner, and at the site of the old veranda at the southeast corner.
3. Openings:
  - a. Doors and doorways: The main entry is located on the principal or east facade. Plain white trim is ornamented by two vertical modillions with two crests or anthemions. The double door is painted black.
  - b. Windows and shutters: The fenestration scheme is relatively complex. All first floor windows are double hung sash windows with six-over-twelve lights. The east facade has a three window projecting bay window. An identical bay window is located on the south facade. The new wing has larger openings without muntins. The second floor windows are uniform double hung sash windows with six-over-six lights. All windows, except those in the new wing and part of the bay windows, have white sills and heads, and black louvered shutters.

4. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: The mansard roof of the original building is covered with grey slate shingles. The flat roof of the new wing has dark metal band cornice to echo the effect of the mansard roof.
  - b. Cornice and eaves: The cornice has modillions and crests or anthemions at the corners.
5. Dormers: The original house, main block and wing, has dormer windows with six-over-six lights set almost flush against the roof. The dormers have slightly curved heads.

This documentation was donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1977, and edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Eleni Silverman, Architectural Historian, HABS, in June 1984.